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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA + + + + + ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD + + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

MPD Reimbursable Detail Rulemaking

August 13, 2014

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., Chairperson Ruthanne Miller presiding.

## PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson NICK ALBERTI, Member DONALD BROOKS, Member

HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member

MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

	Page
1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(11:37 a.m.)
3	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And we can go
4	on to our scheduled rulemaking case on MPD
5	Reimbursement Loan detail.
6	Okay. We're here today to conduct
7	a public hearing and take comment on a
8	proposed rulemaking that modifies Section
9	718.2 of Title 23 of the DCMR regarding the
10	MPD Reimbursable Detail Subsidy Program.

Specifically, the proposed rules increase the number of days covered by the MPD Reimbursable Detail Subsidy Program from Friday and Saturday nights to seven days a The proposed rules also will allow for week. the subsidy to cover special events.

The rules continue to limit reimbursement under the program to only those hours worked by MPD officers from 11:30 p.m. to 5 o'clock a.m.

I'll begin this hearing by calling on witnesses who notified the Agency in

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emergency rules to modify the terms in the
Reimbursable Detail RDO Subsidy Program, but
only if the modifications don't strip the
program of funding to the point that it
jeopardizes the basic goals.

The Adams Morgan bid, like the other bids from D.C., is funded mostly through tax on the commercial property owners to provide additional cleaning, safety, and marketing services above what the D.C. Government can offer, but with a goal of generating economic growth to benefit everyone.

We have participated in the RDO program since 2007, and have established a weekend safety program built upon the RDOs and effective coordination with MPD. The system we have created has proven to be very successful at reducing criminal activity in Adams Morgan on weekend nights, and has provided MPD officers where and when they are most needed.

We think it is a really model

program that could be duplicated in other

parts of the city. We have developed a

managed program that best meets the needs of

our constituents and provides an exceptional

level of public safety in the commercial

corridor.

Yes, incidents still happen, they happen right in front of MPD and the RDOs, but through the RDO program, we have the insurance that there are trained professionals ready and available to handle situations that arise.

We have hired RDOs in recent years on just Friday and Saturday nights during the reimbursable hours, which we determined to be when they were most needed. Ideally however, MPD would be able to have sufficient resources such that the RDO program would not even be necessary.

However, until that happens, the RDO subsidy is necessary and essential to maintaining public safety in Adams Morgan. We

support the extension of the program to seven nights a week and certain special events.

We would hope that events like the Adams Morgan Day Festival every September, in which we participate but do not organize, would be eligible to participate in the RDO program. We have, on occasion, also hired RDOs for holidays such as New Year's Eve, special events like St. Patrick's Day.

The increased program coverage would enable us to hire additional officers on those days, and would increase public safety, also. I anticipate that like the Adams Morgan Partnership Bid, many will now take advantage of this expanded program, and the funds will be quickly spent.

I would urge ABRA to closely
monitor the spending and ensure there is
sufficient funding to last the full budget
cycle. Should the funding get very low, I
hope the program could reverse back to just
Friday and Saturday nights to maintain the

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1	core goals of the original program.
2	Thank you for this opportunity to
3	comment on the RDO program. This kind of
4	collaboration is what makes our city thrive,
5	and thank you for your support of the Adams
6	Morgan Partnership Bid and our work.
7	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you
8	very much. Are there some board questions?
9	MEMBER BROOKS: Yes.
10	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Brooks?
11	MEMBER BROOKS: Yes, just one
12	question, Madam Chair. Thank you, Ms. Barden.
13	I do have a question. In your comments you
14	said that incidents still happen, and they
15	happen in front of MPDs and the RDOs. What
16	happens when the MPD or RDO sees and incident
17	that occurs in front of them?
18	MS. BARDEN: They respond
19	immediately, and you know, try to take control
20	of the situation.
21	MEMBER BROOKS: So you feel pretty
22	good and comfortable with how things are

	3 -
1	handled when they do see incidents like this?
2	MS. BARDEN: Yes. Having the
3	officers right there on the ready makes a huge
4	difference. They're able to, you know,
5	diffuse situations quite quickly before they
6	escalate.
7	MEMBER BROOKS: Okay, because
8	there have been some concerns of some
9	licensees that the RDO do not respond
10	appropriately at times. Have you heard that
11	criticism?
12	MS. BARDEN: I have heard that
13	comment. I don't have any facts to back it
14	up. But I've heard some concerns that
15	sometimes the officers group together in
16	certain locations more so than they should.
17	And it's not just the RDOs. It's
18	the regular 3rd District officers, as well.
19	But the reason why there are groups of
20	officers in certain locations is it's
21	strategic. There's a plan in place that's

coordinated with the 3rd District as to where

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1	officers should be.
2	And there usually are in pairs for
3	their own safety. So there are going to be,
4	you know, groups of officers together, but
5	it's for a reason.
6	MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you, Madam
7	Chair.
8	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.
9	Rodriguez?
10	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes, Ms.
11	Barden, happy to see you here. I'm very
12	pleased, and I know that you have worked with
13	many years for the bid. And I praise you for
14	the work that the bid is doing in Adams
15	Morgan, really.
16	MS. BARDEN: Thank you.
17	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I am more
18	comfortable to see the RDOs around the 18th
19	Street Corridor. I have a question about what
20	we call the quiet side of Adams Morgan. Do
21	you have any RDO detail there at all?
22	MS. BARDEN: What do you mean, the

1 quiet side?

MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well, what I'm talking about is along the Columbia Road strip.

MS. BARDEN: So the RDOs are detailed to Adams Morgan's commercial corridor. So their responsibility is to walk and maintain, you know, peace, order, and quite in the commercial corridor. And they're not allowed to leave the commercial corridor unless they take an arrest.

So they are detailed to Adams

Morgan. So, but like I said, they're

positioned in strategic places. So you might

not always see them in the 1700 block of

Columbia Road, or the 1900 or 1800 block just

because there's a plan, you know, that MPD is

trying to exercise.

MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay. There have been some mentions of noise and activity on the Columbia Road side, which normally is a quieter side, and all the activity primarily

1	is focused on 18th Street.
2	Some have noted that there's a
3	little more activity taking place now on the
4	Columbia Road side, and the bus stop there and
5	certain people that congregate there to pick
6	up cabs and everything that come over from the
7	18th Street side.
8	And I was just curious to see if
9	you could keep an eye on that side, as it's
10	beginning to not be as quiet as it normally
11	is.
12	MS. BARDEN: The 1800 block of
13	Columbia Road, or the 1700 block?
14	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: The 1700 block.
15	MS. BARDEN: 1700 block, okay,
16	okay. All right, sure. I'll mention it to
17	our safety director who's part of, you know,
18	who helps manage the RDO program for us. So
19	I can mention that to him.
20	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I appreciate
21	that, thank you.
22	MS. BARDEN: Yes, sure.

1	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr.
2	Silverstein?
3	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you for
4	being here, Ms. Barden. You mentioned that
5	there are, that the police respond quickly
6	whenever you see these incidents. My
7	questions deal with the deployment.
8	We have unlimited needs, limited
9	resources. Where do we target our resources?
10	One of the things that we noticed when we
11	first put RDOs down in the club central area
12	on Connecticut Avenue was that the period in
13	the year after they were placed there, there
14	were a greater number of arrests, but for less
15	serious offenses.
16	And the conjecture was that the
17	police were able to stop things from
18	escalating, so you had more disorderlies and
19	fewer felony assaults and things of that sort.
20	Has that been your understanding as well in
21	your situation

Yes --

MS. BARDEN:

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: -- that the police are able to stop things before they get completely out of control?

MS. BARDEN: Yes. I think so. You know, and the officers that mostly work the Adams Morgan detail are trained nightlife officers. MPD now has this program where they're training officers to work in nightlife destinations, nightlife neighborhoods.

And so, you know, so they're trained to look for situations that can easily get out of control. So I do think that's the case.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Okay. One of the things where we felt there might be a bit of misuse of RDOs in one part of the city, they were requested during daytime and at times when basically you didn't have the nightlife issues. And it seemed as though folks in that area, they're simply try to buy or get additional police coverage rather than what this was for, this was very limited in

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1	its time.
2	Ms. BARDEN: Right.
3	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Now my
4	question is if we're going to go beyond the
5	hours that we have had, what would be the key
6	hours and days that you think would be the
7	most important to add? If you could only add
8	one or two four hour time frames, when would
9	they be? What do you think?
10	MS. BARDEN: Well, I would expand,
11	I think, the hours maybe starting at 11:00
12	p.m., you know, a half an hour earlier and go
13	11:00 to 5:00 rather than 11:30 to 5:00
14	because we see the numbers, the people
15	starting to pick up closer to 11:00 sometimes.
16	So I would make that slight
17	adjustment. And then if you're not going to
18	do seven days a week and, you know, I think I
19	would add Thursday through Sunday. So
20	Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and then Sunday
21	night.

And then keep the holidays, for

But you know, it's pretty, it is rather quiet during, but during closing time is when there's increased activity there,

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constant problem.

MEMBER RODRIGUEZ:

MS. BARDEN:

that people tend to --

alleyway there, you know, and then the stop

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Yes, there's an

Yes, behind the --

1	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: come up the
2	alley, and then they catch a cab in that
3	corridor there. But thank you so much.
4	MS. BARDEN: Sure, sure.
5	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr.
6	Silverstein?
7	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Ms. Barton,
8	what are the most dangerous hours and the
9	hours when most things occur in your area?
10	Are they around closing time?
11	MS. BARDEN: Yes, between 2:30 and
12	5:00 probably. And part of the challenge also
13	is that sometimes the night, well they used to
14	be called club zone officers, but we're trying
15	to get away from that term, and MPDs with us
16	on that.
17	They're now calling them nightlife
18	officers or something like that. They tend to
19	work only until 2:30 or 3:00, and that's why
20	we have our RDOs stay until 5:00 because, you
21	know, we can't have all these officers just
22	leaving because I think there are ten

1	again as I've said, an unlimited desire to
2	have coverage. It's almost like a triage
3	unit. You have to put them where
4	MS. BARDEN: Right, where they're
5	most needed. Yes, yes. And we actually don't
6	hire as many as we used to. And that's one
7	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Would you say
8	that again.
9	MS. BARDEN: We don't hire as many
10	RDOs as we did four or five years ago.
11	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Why not?
12	MS. BARDEN: And that's mostly
13	because we're getting more support from MPD.
14	They now have these nightlife officers, you
15	know, that didn't exist a few years ago. And
16	now they've gotten some officers who have some
17	training.
18	And they mostly comprise these
19	additional TAD officers that are assigned to
20	the neighborhood. So because of that, we can
21	keep our RDO numbers fairly low. And you

know, that helps our budget certainly.

And you know, you don't need

overkill. But if those nightlife officers

leave or take an arrest, you know, then the

4 RDO is really, then it's their show.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Well, this isn't just about Adams Morgan, this is about the entire city. And I think that the RDO program has clearly demonstrated its value in saving life and limb, simply by having professional officers there outside of these establishments to diffuse situations before they become bad, or become life threatening, and to arrest people prior to something terrible happening rather than having police come afterwards.

MS. BARDEN: Right, right.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: So this is something that, you know, it's a heck of a lot more important to stop these things before they happen, but it's hard to quantify how many bad things we've avoided simply by being there.

1	MS. BARDEN: Right, right.
2	Exactly, yes. And we've even had some
3	establishments see the success of the program
4	and contact us and hire RDOs through us. So
5	we have three businesses all with ABC licenses
6	who actually hire together an additional RDO
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7	through us, which is a great way to do it
8	because then it's all coordinated.
9	And, you know, we make sure that
LO	those slots are filled, that the officers show
L1	up, and that they stay where they're assigned
L2	and they don't just disappear. So you know,
L3	through our management of the program, it's
L4	working really well.
L5	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: That type of
L6	coordination is absolutely priceless. It's
L7	great. Thank you very much.
L8	MS. BARDEN: Sure.
L9	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Others? I
20	just want to follow up on the whole plan of
21	the RDO and the bid, that the bid meets with

MPD and makes the plan for how many officers

there should be in general, which are in the,
where, the main street or how does that work?

MS. BARDEN: The main commercial corridor, yes. Well, like I said, we've scaled back in recent years the number of officers we hire, mostly because of budget, and then also because of these assigned nightlife officers.

And we meet once a year with Chief Lanier and her staff to just sort of check in and see, you know, if things are working and what we can tweak and what makes sense. And we have a person who's a paid consultant to us who is also a reserve officer, and he sort of helps manage that program and make sure that officers have signed up for the detail and that all the slots are filled.

If someone takes an arrest right before they're supposed to start, you know, working in Adams Morgan, he can then backfill that position with someone else who might, you know, be interested in the detail.

1	So we always have those slots
2	filled. And then he's also there with them
3	each night to make sure that they are where
4	they're supposed to be, that they don't
5	disappear, you know, and that the plan that
6	has been worked out with MPD is in place.
7	And that management has been
8	really key to the success of this program. I
9	know some of the other bids that have tried
LO	the RDO program did not have somebody sort of
L1	managing it at this level, and it hasn't
L2	really worked very well.
L3	So we've discovered that the only
L4	way to really have it work is to manage it in
L5	that way. So
L6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That's great.
L7	MS. BARDEN: it costs us more
L8	money, of course, to do that. But that's what
L9	we've found to be key.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And how many
21	RDO do you have right now?
22	MS. BARDEN: We have four RDOs and

1	one Sergeant on every Friday and Saturday
2	night.
3	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And there are
4	ten MPD assigned to 18th Street or whatever,
5	but only until 2:30?
6	MS. BARDEN: Yes, I think in my
7	recollection, I think they leave at 2:30 or
8	3:00. Yes. I think they work, I forget now
9	exactly.
10	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But then the
11	RDO has been sufficient?
12	MS. BARDEN: Yes, it's given us a little
13	bit more time in those critical hours until,
14	you know, 5 o'clock or so. And the RDOs stick
15	around. I mean, they don't all leave right at
16	5:00. They stick around really until the
17	streets are pretty clear of people. So
18	sometimes they're there a little bit later.
19	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And okay, and
20	then my last question is these regulations
21	pass, whatever, will that, will it change your
22	operations? Will you be using them at the

1	other hours, do you think, or days?
2	MS. BARDEN: Well, it will enable
3	us to consider, you know, hiring RDOs on other
4	days that are of high demand. So you know, we
5	might, in the past we have almost always hired
6	RDOs on New Year's Eve and we've just paid the
7	additional cost.
8	So this would enable us to save
9	money. Perhaps we could hire a couple more on
LO	New Year's Eve than we normally would. We
L1	haven't done St. Patrick's Day the last few
L2	years just because of cost. So if that was a
L3	day that was added, you know, we might
L4	consider that as well.
L5	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, good.
L6	Mr. Rodriguez?
L7	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
L8	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.
L9	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: In your
20	testimony here, we would hope that events like
21	the Adams Morgan Day Festival every September
22	in which we participate is eligible.

1	And that is a huge event for the
2	Adams Morgan community. And I would hope
3	that, you know, consideration could be given
4	to ensure that that is supported with RDO. So
5	that is a request you're making here?
6	MS. BARDEN: Yes. The Mayor's
7	Task Force requires special events like the
8	Adams Morgan Day Festival to hire police
9	officers. So if they were to hire officers
LO	through the RDO program, that would save them
L1	a lot of money.
L2	So that would be great, and I'm
L2 L3	So that would be great, and I'm sure other festivals would take advantage of
L3	sure other festivals would take advantage of
L3 L4	sure other festivals would take advantage of that.
L3 L4 L5	sure other festivals would take advantage of that.  MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well, thank you
L3 L4 L5 L6	sure other festivals would take advantage of that.  MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well, thank you for bringing that into your testimony. Thank
L3 L4 L5 L6	sure other festivals would take advantage of that.  MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well, thank you for bringing that into your testimony. Thank you.
13 14 15 16 17	sure other festivals would take advantage of that.  MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well, thank you for bringing that into your testimony. Thank you.  MS. BARDEN: Sure.
L3 L4 L5 L6 L7	sure other festivals would take advantage of that.  MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well, thank you for bringing that into your testimony. Thank you.  MS. BARDEN: Sure.  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.

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1	guess what I want to get on the record is
2	you're supportive of this rulemaking to
3	increase the RDO?
4	MS. BARDEN: Yes.
5	MEMBER SHORT: And that it has
6	been very effective and efficient?
7	MS. BARDEN: Yes. I'm supportive
8	with the caveat that we keep really close eyes
9	on the money, and because we don't want there
LO	to be a huge flood of spending, and then all
L1	of a sudden there's no money left for the last
L2	few months of the year. We really don't want
L3	to get into that kind of situation.
L <b>4</b>	And I understand that because
L5	there is a, you know, surplus right now, that
L6	the Board may be able to expand the days. And
L7	that's great, but I don't also want to see
L8	that money really depleted before its time.
L9	So that's my one caveat.
20	MEMBER SHORT: So you're
21	supportive with stipulations?
22	MS. BARDEN: Right.

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1	MEMBER SHORT: Thank you very
2	much.
3	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any
4	others? Okay, thank you.
5	MS. BARDEN: Okay, thank you.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Coburn,
7	do you want to testify?
8	MR. COBURN: Thank you, yes.
9	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
10	MR. COBURN: Good morning,
11	everyone. I'm Skip Coburn, I'm Executive
12	Director of the D.C. Nightlife Association.
13	And I'm really very pleased that you're
14	holding this public hearing. I'm also very
15	pleased that there's this initiative that's
16	been put forward by the Counsel for us all to
17	comment on.
18	I would like to go back, like,
19	eight years or something, 2007, 2008 and
20	compliment both Maria Delaney who was in on
21	the initial discussions I believe regarding
22	this concept, and of course Fred for his

vision and his initiative and the support of the Board at that time to get this entire thing started.

I was working as an investigative assistant for Counsel Member Ambrose at that time, which had oversight over ABRA, and I also, as you know, I'm imbedded with the police department. And so I worked very hard to put together this proposal.

I worked with Fred and others to get money put in a very interesting way to put in the D.C.'s budget initially. And then we fought hard every year to continue that budget line. And so just wanted to say that we're very supportive of the program from its inception.

I helped put it together with Fred and some other people's assistance. And it has been, as you have already discussed here with our good friends from Adams Morgan, it has been very successful. The industry appreciates the added degree of public safety

that's provided.

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We've worked long and hard with NMPD to let officers who didn't used to know how to deal with nightlife crowds, we had a lot of lack of efficiency let's call it in the beginning because oftentimes you would just get officers who would volunteer to be an RDO at a nightclub in Georgetown or at a nightclub on Connecticut Avenue, and they were, like, a vice officer or a narcotics officer from 7D, not used to working at all with somebody who's not robbing a bank or breaking into a house, but just slightly intoxicated and maybe taking out their frustrations on somebody standing next to them trying to get a cab, I don't know.

But it's an entirely different

type of policing. Worked very hard with MPD

to get the training course that's set up now

for nightlife officers. Assistant Chief Pat

Burke was very instrumental, and also people

at the Academy dedicated a lot of effort.

at this point is that's actually what I
believe has made the RDO officers, the
nightlife officers much more effective now.
When they didn't have training, sometimes we
have in police department, special details.

And a special detail is like you and your partner are assigned in a car to sit out of a lot and be there in your scout car and be present to certain be present at an intersection where there's been indications of groups that don't play well together to sort of bring peace and quiet a little bit to the neighborhood.

Their job, they're used to sitting in their car, and so they get used to, well my police job is to be in this neighborhood and sit in my car. That's a totally different post order than hey, when you go to a night club, your job is really to be out on the sidewalk patrolling up and down, making yourself visible so that maybe people who

might be inclined to misbehave will say oh,
well gee, the police is here, I'd better not
be bad.

getting now is making them much more effective, and I think that's what's going to enable us all to have a more reasonable amount of officers assigned to these details, and that will help control the amount of funding that the establishment are spending, and the amount of money in the ABRA budget line is whiddled away. So that's that.

I wanted to comment on the hours.

The entire reason, the entire justification

for the reserve officer, I'm sorry, the RDO

program is to provide for public safety when

it's needed. And what I would really lobby

for, as Fred knows, I've been lobbying for

three or four years to expand this subsidy

program to nights other than Friday and

Saturday.

And as I've explained in writing

to the Board and to Fred many times before, the problem is that some clubs have 18 and over college night on Wednesday, and I'm sure you all know all about this.

So I've always lobbied that the options need to be available for nightlife establishments to be encouraged to apply for police officer presence when there is a public safety need. And that should be, you know, my telling you, that should be your all's concern.

The Board and the Government should set up a program so that an establishment can apply to you all to have the subsidy to hire RDOs when they believe there's a public safety need.

And to me it doesn't make sense to say in advance, well we've decided that public safety need is only going to be on Fridays and Saturdays. Or we've decided, the Government has decided that the public safety need is only going to occur after 11:30, regardless of

the date, the time, the establishment, the establishment's history, the crowd that is usually expected to show up on St. Patrick's Day, or on whatever.

So I'm supportive to go ahead and answer what you addressed at the end. I'm very supportive of this initiative. I've been begging for a long time to have it be please more than just Friday and Saturday.

I would also encourage you that talking about well, let's move it back to 11:00 to me doesn't make sense. Let's move it back to 10:00, it doesn't make sense. What really needs to happen is, I believe, is that establishments need to be encouraged to apply to have officer presence at their establishment when they feel there's a public safety need.

And when they apply, it's very
easy for MPD, who probably might usually
agree, but it's more important for you all to
assess, do you agree that the public safety

need on a Wednesday night at 9:00 p.m., starting at 9:00 for instance on a case by case application to decide, okay it's this club, it's 18 and over.

They've hired this kind of a band, they're being responsible and coming forward to us saying we think it would be a good, safe thing for public safety to have police officers. We would hope that the Government would agree and based on that would agree to pay half.

I believe the law and the DCMR and the Board should have the option to decide on a case by case basis whether using funds on that particular day at those particular hours at that particular establishment is in the best interest of public safety, and the use of Government funds is justified for that rationale or not.

So I'm very much against having a cookie cutter limitation on it can only happen on these days, it can only happen on these

hours. And so I just think the Board should have the flexibility to make that decision, is the public safety need justified 50 percent?

I believe that in terms of conserving the money, as you know, we all, most of us all experience a couple of years ago when we ran out a little bit, and had to do very creative things to make the fund last a little bit longer.

I would encourage the Board toward that end to consider when the Board mandates that a particular club has to have four officers or has to have six officers any time they're open. So sometimes the Board does that for a good reason.

But I'm wishing that there would be some sort of a sunset provision, or a let's revisit that in 90 days to see how things have been going. Sometimes these clubs, I'll use Muse Lounge as an example, I'll use Lotus Lounge as an example.

Sometimes a bad thing happens at a

club, sometimes the club is responsible, sometimes it's just a matter of circumstance that too many people shows up and the club needs help to deal with that.

Over 60 days, 90 days, six months, sometimes the clubs change their concept of operations. Sometimes they hire more in-house security personnel that situations change.

And sometimes I think the clubs are reluctant to take the initiative and hire lawyers and come back to talk with the OAG and you all to say hey, would you reconsider, could we, based on our good performance the last six months and whatever other justification, could you all consider maybe dropping back to two officers instead of four or whatnot.

So in terms of conserving funds and us requesting a reasonable amount of officers, if when you assign these things on a case by case basis depending on the circumstance, if you could say and we've

scheduled a fact finding hearing for three

months from now to revisit this entire, or you

know, I don't know.

That would be an option in terms of lots of aspects. I want to comment in favor very much for the festivals. It's real important, a lot of neighborhood organizations, 501 3(c)s, Main Street organizations, Adams Morgan group, they want to do nice things for the neighborhood.

They want to have a cultural event, they want to have a neighborhood festival. You guys, I would recommend in your consideration of this, you should ask MPD SOD Division, Lieutenant Glover can help you out, you should ask them if you were interested, want to know, hey for the last year, give us a list of 10 or 20 special events and the bill that you gave them.

How many police officers did you require, the Mayor's Task Force and MPD together require for the various festivals,

for the Taste of D.C., for especially the ones that are by 501 (c)3s and Main Streets, the commercial ones are a factor too.

\$50,000 for police officer. A lot of places don't, a lot of neighborhoods can't afford to have an event anymore because of what I believe are the unrealistic requirements of MPD.

We made a presentation to the Task Force on Monday for the Columbia Heights

Festival. And they said if they approved it as briefed, the bill would be \$40,000 for police officers, and it's from 11:00 until 5:00 for a family oriented event with kids and people walking their dogs and whatnot.

And so one, the requirements by

MPD are often over the top, and in terms of

deciding which days and which festivals and

how it's going to affect your budget, you need

to find out some of those bills.

Last year the Barracks Row bill I

22 SKIP COBURN: Okay, fine. In

don't want to get too far afield.

terms of your finances, the festivals, I mean, support of the festivals, if you're not real careful, the festivals will eat up your money overnight because the cost is so expensive.

Okay, in closing, in terms of the late nights, late night RDOs for staying later and not leaving, I encourage the Board to continue its support for soft closing because the degree to which clubs are able to encourage people to filter out not all at the same time, that reduces the stress that's put on the officers.

And if there are people coming out in a filtered way, and they're all not coming out at 2:30 or 3:00, then you need, sometimes the police say well, we've got to have six officers there because of the huge group that happens at 3:00 a.m.

If that huge group was divided out, it would be able to have less officers, again, less expense. So I think that's about all the major points I wanted to bring up.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you. I
just want to follow up one question, because
I was kind of surprised by your answer. So
the question about festivals and that they can
be expensive, I thought that you were going in
the direction that that's why the RDOs would
be a good thing because they could help people
have the festivals that they couldn't
otherwise afford.

But then I thought you said be careful, you better not put the money there because it's a lot of money.

SKIP COBURN: I'm testifying in support of everything you're doing, again with a caution that hey, I think it's important doing it for the festivals. You need to be aware of what kind of money you're talking about because it's a huge dollar figure.

Yes, we need the police at the festivals, and yes it would really help the Main Streets, the 501(c)3s. More neighborhood organizations would be able to have a festival

if they were getting some subsidy or some percentage of help for the huge number of police officers that the Mayor's Task Group mandates you must have 26 officers in order to have your neighborhood festival at that, you know, \$55.61 an hour.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

SKIP COBURN: Yes, so I'm in support. But I just want you to -- we may need, in order to make this work, especially since now the Government has a budget, a surplus, we actually may need to protect that fund by going back and saying hey, we want to do more to enhance public safety at community events, neighborhood festivals, at these other hours.

We need to have more money in that budget, and I can't see where the police wouldn't support that, where the counsel, the Mayor wouldn't support more money in the interest of public safety. It's kind of hard to vote against that.

1	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, that
2	was very helpful. Mr. Silverstein?
3	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I want to
4	thank you for your testimony, Mr. Coburn. We
5	are running a little behind, and we have two
6	protest hearings this afternoon, and we were
7	here last week, or the Board was until 1
8	o'clock in the morning.
9	So I don't want to belabor this.
LO	But I want to thank you for your comments
L1	regarding flexibility, they were especially
L2	illuminating the idea that certain places
L3	there may be a need outside of particular
L <b>4</b>	hours.
L5	It's not cookie cutter. One size
L6	doesn't fit all, and I think that was
L7	extremely helpful to me. And I have some
L8	other thoughts, but I'll pass on them.
L9	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I was also
20	going to say thank you also for talking about
21	the training that's going on for those
22	officers. That's good to hear. Okay,

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1	anything else? Okay, thank you very much. We
2	really appreciate it.
3	SKIP COBURN: It was nice to see
4	you all.
5	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, yes,
7	thank you both for coming down. And if you
8	have anything else you want to add to the
9	record, you know you can submit it in writing
LO	until August 22nd, 4:00 p.m.
L1	Okay, so that concludes this
L2	hearing on the MPD RDO Proposed Rulemaking.
L3	And we will recess until 1:30 when we have our
L4	first protest hearing of the afternoon.
L5	(Whereupon, the hearing in the
L6	above-entitled matter was concluded at 12:17
L7	p.m.)
L8	
L9	
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